United States Attorney John W. Vaudreuil Western District of Wisconsin

CONTACT: AUSA ASSIGNED TO CASE

PHONE: (608) 264-5158

TTY: (608) 264-5006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE NOVEMBER 28, 2012 WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/WIW

FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

Madison, Wisconsin -- A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin, sitting in Madison, returned the following indictments today. You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

MADISON MAN CHARGED WITH CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE HEROIN

Melvin R. Thomas, also known as Melvin R. Thompson, 32, Madison, Wis., is charged with conspiracy to possess and distribute heroin. The indictment alleges that the conspiracy involved 100 grams or more of heroin, and that the conspiracy operated from September 2010 to December 2010. He is also charged with possessing heroin with intent to distribute on November 10 and December 10, 2010.

The indictment alleges that Thomas would order quantities of heroin by telephone from a source in Chicago, that he would travel to Chicago to purchase the heroin from the source, and that he would bring the heroin back to the Madison area for resale to others.

If convicted, Thomas faces a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in federal prison and a maximum penalty of life in prison. The charges against him are the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

FITCHBURG MAN CHARGED WITH DISTRIBUTING HEROIN

Antoine M. Edwards, 39, Fitchburg, Wis., is charged with distributing heroin. The indictment alleges that he distributed heroin on November 12, 2012.

If convicted, Edwards faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. The charges against him are the result of an investigation by the Wisconsin Department of

Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation and the Stoughton Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

####